

CLAIMS

1 Method for increasing at least one of the following two parameters of a polyamide: (i) its melting point and (ii) its enthalpy of melting ΔH_m , in which:

- 5 ◦ this polyamide is brought into contact in the solid state with water or with steam at a temperature close to its crystallization temperature T_c for a time long enough to effect this increase;
- then, the water (or steam) is separated from the polyamide and the polyamide is dried.

10

2 Method according to Claim 1, in which the temperature lies within a range between 10°C below T_c and 10°C above T_c .

3 Method according to either of the preceding claims, in which the
15 temperature lies within a range of between 5°C below T_c and 5°C above T_c .

4 Method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the duration of treatment is between 5 and 100 hours.

20 5 Method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the polyamide is chosen from PA-11, PA-12, aliphatic polyamides resulting from the condensation of an aliphatic diamine having from 6 to 12 carbon atoms and an aliphatic diacid having from 9 to 12 carbon atoms, and 11/12 copolyamides having either more than 90% of nylon-11 units or more than 90% of nylon-12
25 units.

6 Method according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the polyamide is in the form of granules or powder.

30 7 Process for manufacturing polyamide objects by the sintering of polyamide powders by melting them using radiation, the powders having been

treated according to the method of Claim 6 or resulting from the grinding of granules treated according to the method of Claim 6.

- 8 Process according to Claim 7, in which the radiation comes from a
5 laser beam.